

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A bone nail comprising a nose portion and an opposing portion coupled via a tie ~~rod~~bar, the bone nail including at least two expansion portions longitudinally spaced between the nose portion and the opposing portion so as to be positionable on either side of a bone fracture during use, wherein each expansion portion is configured to be radially expanded under a compressive force applied by the nose portion and the opposing portion coupled via the tie ~~rod~~bar, each expansion portion having at least one first portion, at least one characteristic of which is selected to be different to a corresponding at least one characteristic of at least one ~~other~~ second portion of the expansion portion.

2. (Currently Amended) A bone nail according to claim 1, wherein the at least one characteristic comprises a thickness and/or width of the at least one first portion and the at least one ~~other~~ second portion.

3. (Previously Presented) A bone nail according to claim 1, wherein the expansion portions comprise at least one elongate portion having a pair of elongate slots on either side thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) A bone nail according to claim ~~1~~3, wherein the at least one first portion comprises a first end portion of the at least one elongate portion and a second end portion of at least one elongate portion.

5. (Currently Amended) A bone nail according to claim 4, wherein the at least one ~~other~~ second portion comprises a mid portion of the elongate portion forming a remainder of the elongate portion.

6. (Currently Amended) A bone nail according to claim 4, wherein the first end portion and/or second end portion of the elongate portion is thinner or thicker and/or narrower or broader than an adjacent portion of the at least one elongate portion.

7. (Currently Amended) A bone nail according to claim ~~4~~, wherein the at least one first portion further comprises a first end of at least one slot and a second end of at least one slot.

8. (Currently Amended) A bone nail according to claim 7, wherein the at least one ~~other~~ second portion comprises a mid portion of the slot forming a remainder of the slot.

9. (Currently Amended) A bone nail according to claim ~~4~~, wherein the first end and/or the second end of at least one slot is broader than an adjacent portion of the at least one slot.

10. (Currently Amended) A bone nail ~~comprising a nose portion and an opposing portion coupled via a tie rod, the bone nail including at least two expansion portions longitudinally spaced between the nose portion and the opposing portion so as to be positionable on either side of a bone fracture during use, wherein each expansion portion is configured to be radially expanded under a compressive force applied by the nose portion and the~~

~~opposing portion coupled via the tie rod~~ according to claim 1, wherein each expansion portion is shaped and configured to elastically bow outwards when the compressive force is applied axially to the expansion portion.

11. (Currently Amended) A bone nail adapted to be received within a bone cavity and comprising a nose portion and an opposing portion coupled via a tie ~~rod~~bar, the bone nail including at least two expansion portions longitudinally spaced between the nose portion and the opposing portion so as to be positionable on either side of a bone fracture during use, wherein each expansion portion is configured to be radially expanded under a compressive force applied by the nose portion and the opposing portion coupled via the tie ~~rod~~bar, wherein at least one of the expansion portions comprises at least one longitudinal portion fixed at ~~either opposing ends~~ to means which interengage a compression couplings, wherein a profile of the at least one longitudinal portion is narrowed at one or both end portions of the at least one longitudinal portion.

12. (Previously Presented) A bone nail according to claim 11, wherein a plurality of longitudinal portions substantially equidistant spaced around a circumference of the expansion portion are provided.

13. (Previously Presented) A bone nail according to claim 11, wherein the longitudinal portion has a stepped or curved profile.

14. (Previously Presented) A bone nail according to claim 11, wherein the outer surface of the longitudinal portion is serrated to provide grip with the inner surface of a bone.

15-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) A bone nail according to claim 1, wherein the expansion portions are made of a stiffly resilient plastics material, titanium or titanium alloy.

28. (Canceled)

29. (New) The bone nail according to claim 3, wherein the at least one characteristic comprises a thickness of the elongate portion measured between an inner and outer surface thereof.

30. (New) The bone nail according to claim 29, wherein the thickness of the elongate portion is reduced at one or both end portions thereof.

31. (New) The bone nail according to claim 30, wherein the outer surface of the elongate portion is serrated to provide grip with the inner surface of a bone.

32. (New) The bone nail according to claim 31, wherein the thickness of the elongated portion is reduced at a plurality of locations on either side of the serrations.

33. (New) The bone nail according to claim 29, wherein a plurality of recesses are provided on the inner surface of the elongated portion.

34. (New) The bone nail according to claim 29, wherein a plurality of recesses are provided on the outer surface of the elongated portion.

35. (New) The bone nail according to claim 29, wherein at least one recess is provided on the inner surface of the elongated portion and at least one recess is provided on the outer surface of the elongated portion.

36. (New) The bone nail according to claim 35, wherein the elongate portion comprises metallic material.

37. (New) The bone nail according to claim 29, wherein the elongate portion comprises metallic material.

38. (New) The bone nail according to claim 37, wherein the thickness of the elongated portion is reduced at a multiplicity of locations along its length.

39. (New) The bone nail according to claim 38, wherein the expansion portions are made of titanium or a titanium alloy.

40. (New) The bone nail according to claim 37, wherein a multiplicity of components are positioned along the tie bar, the multiplicity of components including the at least two expansion portions, wherein respective ends of the components are interengaged with each other and with the opposing portion such that disengagement of parts is prevented when the compressive force is released.

41. (New) The bone nail according to claim 1, wherein a multiplicity of components are positioned along the tie bar, the multiplicity of components including the at least two expansion portions, wherein respective ends of the components are interengaged with each other and with the opposing portion such that disengagement of parts is prevented when the compressive force is released.